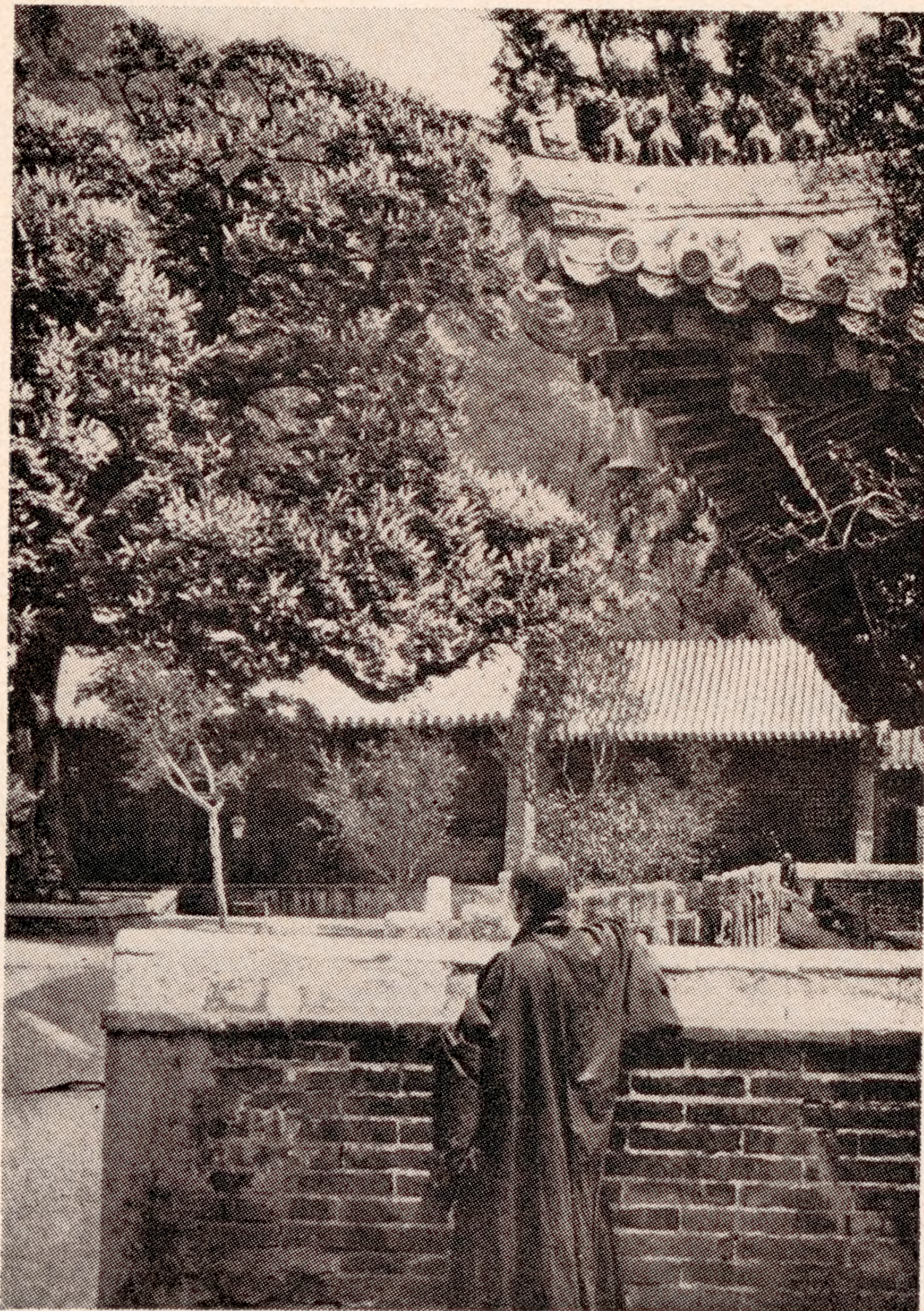


ACADEMY NEWS LETTER

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GARDEN OF A CHINESE MONASTERY
Photographed by HERBERT C. WHITE

SCAIFE LECTURE ON NOVEMBER 3
(See inside page for announcement)

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November Announcement

THE REGULAR NOVEMBER MEETING of the California Academy of Sciences will be held in the Scottish Rite Auditorium, Sutter Street and Van Ness Avenue, on Wednesday evening, November 3, 1943, at eight o'clock. Following a brief business meeting the first of the autumn series of lectures on the Beauties of Nature, on the Walter B. Scaife Foundation, will be presented. The guest speaker of the evening will be Mr. Herbert Clarence White, who will present an illustrated lecture entitled:

GARDENS OF CHINA

It may surprise many to learn that China, long referred to as the "Flowery Kingdom," is also rightfully called the "Mother of Gardens," and can boast of the richest temperate flora of the world. One man alone, E. H. Wilson, found and introduced to Europe and America one thousand new plants from China. It would be hard to find a garden anywhere in the civilized world that does not contain plants that had their origin in this far-off, ancient, almost legendary land.

Here also, in the heart of the Orient, the art of landscape gardening has attained a high degree of perfection. "When you plan your ideal garden," writes E. L. Howard, "you will want to look at many gardens and pictures of gardens; you will study the floral borders and clipped yew arrangements of England, the terraces of Italy, the formal schemes of France, and you will include in your search for ideas, examples from the oldest school of landscape gardening, a school which has flourished from the very beginning of history. The Chinese, in their centuries of culture, have developed a very beautiful and individual treatment of nature in its closest relation to civilized man, and their gardens show the accumulated experience of hundreds of generations."

Mr. White, who has spent eight years in travel and residence in China, is particularly qualified to bring to American audiences this accumulated wisdom of generations of Chinese gardeners, the beauty of individual gardens, and the spirit underlying these creations. His beautifully colored photographs include studies of garden walls, gates, windows, rockeries, trees, pavilions, covered walls, pools, bridges, literary inscriptions, and art objects in bronze and marble. His lecture will include a visit to one of the most beautiful gardens of the world, the "Garden of Peaceful Enjoyment," near Peiping.

China's gardens are not so peaceful today. But Mr. White's lecture is altogether timely in its emphasis on the long cultural heritage, the resilience and essential per-

manence of the Chinese people. He enables us, as it were, to meet with and understand our far-off ally on the common ground of the love of gardens.

The public is cordially invited to hear Mr. White.

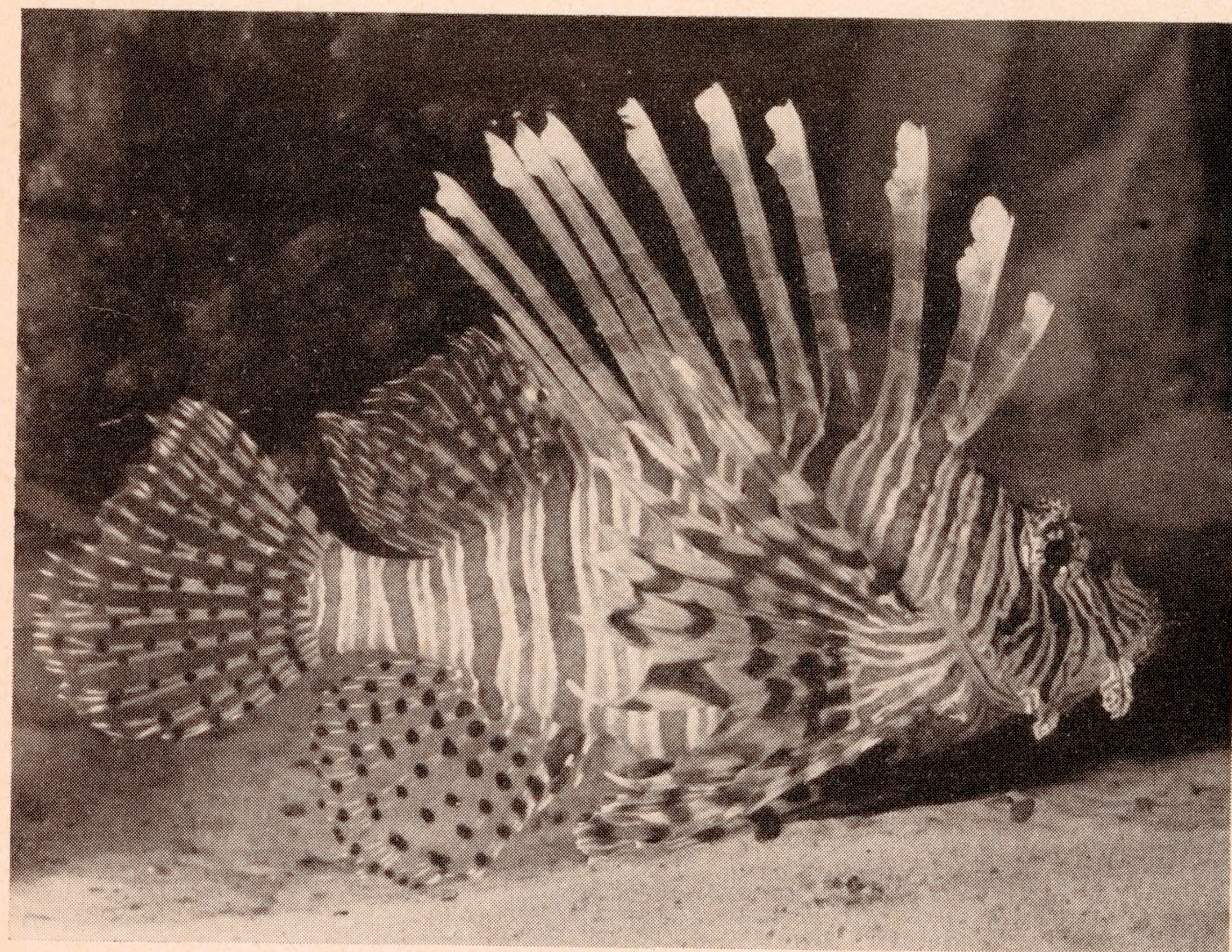


STEINHART AQUARIUM CONCLUDES TWENTIETH YEAR

ON SEPTEMBER 29, 1923, the Steinhart Aquarium, gift of the late Ignatz Steinhart and his brother, the late Sigmund Steinhart, was opened to the public, under the management of the California Academy of Sciences. The continuing interest of the public is reflected in the fact that, in the two decades of its existence, the Aquarium has had nearly eighteen million visitors.

In taking note of the twentieth birthday of the Aquarium at a meeting of the San Francisco Aquarium Society on October 6, Director R. C. Miller commented on the fact that at least some of the original fishes present in the Aquarium tanks on the opening day are still alive and healthy. Of twelve Morays or Sea Eels which were among the original residents of the tanks, eleven are still living.

Other "old-timers" in the Aquarium which are favorites with the public are the Hawks-bill Turtle, presented by the late Commander John H. Blackburn, U.S.N., in December, 1924, and the large Turkey Fish, which was obtained from the Fiji Islands in March, 1932.



TURKEY FISH LOOKS BACK DOWN THE YEARS



BEWARE OF THE DEADLY AMANITA

WITH THE PERIOD of the first fall rains upon us we find that the mushroom season has again made its appearance. The numerous species of fungi, popularly referred to as mushrooms and toadstools, have interested mankind for countless generations. This interest might be attributed to any one of a number of factors—their almost overnight appearance, their weird and sometimes grotesque shapes, or their beautiful and delicate coloring. It is probable, however, that the highly savory quality of some species in contrast to the deadly poisonous character of others plays no little part in the fascination which these peculiar plants universally hold for the human race.

Each year Miss Alice Eastwood, Curator of the Academy's Department of Botany, spends considerable time in identifying edible and poisonous fungi for persons visiting the Academy, and for the City's Department of Health. To further assist the public in the recognition of both harmless and dangerous species, a number of wax models of the more common fungi of the San Francisco Bay region have been placed on exhibit in the west end of the Academy's North American Hall. This exhibit is being constantly enlarged as new models are completed.

Generally speaking, the number of poisonous forms is fewer by far than that of the delicious edible types that grow in the wild. Too much emphasis, however, can-

not be placed on the distinguishing characters of the deadly species of the genus *Amanita*. Members of this group are recognized in the mature state by the combined presence of a volva or "death cup" at the base of the stem and a ring near the top of the stem, and the fact that the gills produce white spores.

In contrast to this, the common edible or meadow mushroom, for example, while possessing a ring, lacks a volva, and the gills which are pink in early life produce brown spores at maturity. One should be careful when looking for the volva of a questionable species to be sure that this is not left in the ground unnoticed when the stem is pulled.

There are many species of mushrooms growing in the bay region which are edible and are highly prized for their flavor by those who know them. Among these may be mentioned the puff-balls, the shaggy-mane, the inky cap, most lepiotas, the oyster mushroom, and many others. The beginner is cautioned, however, to consult an authority or some reliable handbook before indulging in any unknowns. Above all, avoid picking those possessing the three distinctive characters ascribed above to the amanitas. While some of these are harmless, the danger is great, because if a mistake is made death is sure to follow if a sufficient quantity of the poisonous variety is eaten.



LOVE THY NEIGHBOR

SEVERAL MONTHS AGO a visitor brought in some mushrooms at a time when no one was available who could identify them. He was advised to return later in the day. "I don't think I shall bother," he replied, "I was planning on giving these away anyhow."



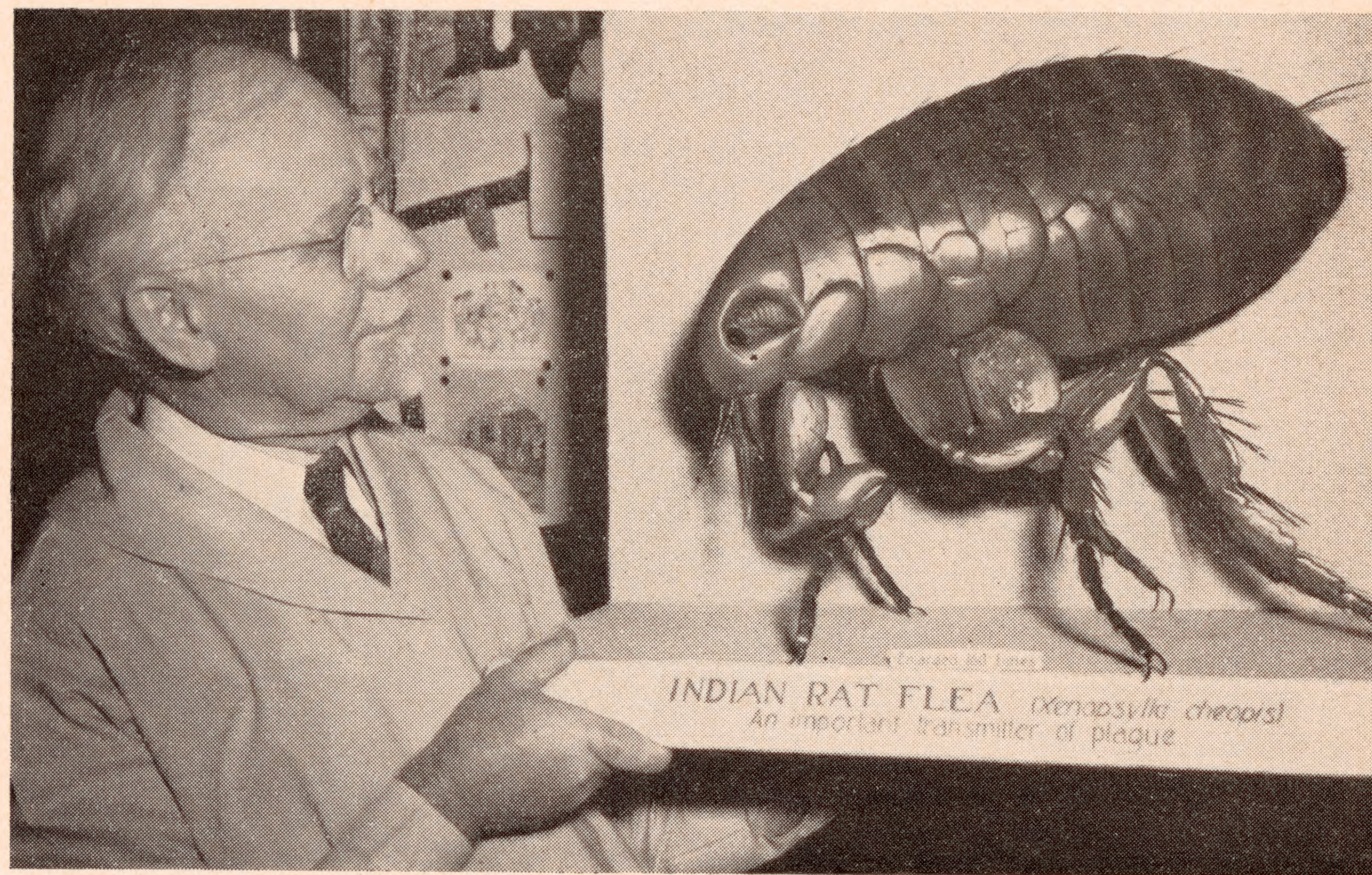
NEVER A DULL MOMENT IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXHIBITS

THE DEPARTMENT OF EXHIBITS, before the war a big, happy family, now is considerably smaller, but still happy—and extremely busy. On Mr. Frank Tose and two assistants, Miss Velma Harris and Mr. Raymond Smith, rests the responsibility of the maintenance of the extensive permanent exhibits and the special educational displays which are regularly being changed or added to.

Recently Miss Harris, while modeling snakes for the growing exhibit of poisonous and harmless reptiles, started a day with three live snakes and, through circumstances beyond her control, finished up with a couple of dozen. While she was reproducing the snakes, they reproduced themselves. Miss Harris reluctantly admits that their work was just as accurate as hers, and faster!

Recently the Academy received a request from the crew of the submarine "Raton" for a picture of the fish after which their vessel is named, a fish from the coast of Panama. A search of the literature indicated that no pictures were extant. A search of the Academy's collections brought to light a melancholy specimen, preserved in alcohol. Mr. Tose, undaunted by obstacles, went to work, and with no more inspiration than a pickled fish and a technical description in Jordan and Evermann's "Fishes of North and Middle America," painted a black-finned, golden Raton swimming in the blue waters of the tropical Pacific. Overseas and underseas his painting will go, and the crew of the "Raton" will have their mascot.

As most members of the Academy are aware, the Department of Exhibits has applied itself with particular energy to exhibits bearing on the war effort. These have



MR. TOSE TAKES UP ENTOMOLOGY

included strategic minerals, nutrition, poisonous reptiles, insect-borne diseases, and other timely subjects. One interesting project has been the modeling of a plague-spreading flea 160 times life size.



DR. HALEY BECOMES MENTOR OF STUDENT GROUP

AT A MEETING of the student members of the Academy on October 9, Dr. George Haley agreed to become the official counselor of this enthusiastic group. Dr. Haley, a member of the Academy for over twenty years, was until his recent retirement Professor of Biology in the University of San Francisco. Much of his life has been devoted to Arctic exploration, particularly in quest of rare northern plants. His scientific journeys have taken him to Mt. McKinley, Nome, Nunivak Island, the Pribilof and Aleutian islands, Labrador, Iceland, Norway and Spitzbergen.

Dr. Haley's wide knowledge of natural history, his long teaching experience, and his contagious enthusiasm combine to make him a highly valued counselor of the student group.



FIELD TRIP ON OCTOBER 30

ON SATURDAY, October 30, student members of the Academy will have a field trip to Lake Merced. Meet on the front steps of the African Hall at 10:00 A.M. Bring lunches. A primary purpose of the trip is to collect insects and to identify the plants on which they are found. The trip will be conducted by Dr. Haley.

STUDENT MEETING ON NOVEMBER 6

ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON, November 6, student members of the Academy will meet at 2:00 o'clock, in Room 214, Simson African Hall. Dr. R. C. Miller will speak on, "The Flight of Birds in Relation to Aviation." The discussion will be illustrated with numerous photographs of birds on the wing.



TWO SUNDAY AFTERNOON LECTURES IN NOVEMBER

TWO SUNDAY AFTERNOON lectures will be given at the Academy in November by Dr. Charles Henry White, who will speak on the general topic, "Geological Excursions in Many Lands." The lectures will be held at 3:00 o'clock, in Room 214, Simson African Hall, on two successive Sundays, November 14 and November 21.

Dr. White, a well-known mining engineer, was formerly Professor of Mining and Metallurgy in Harvard University. He has traveled widely in the course of his professional work, and plans to use photographs taken on his travels to illustrate geological principles.

The lectures are open to the public.



DR. F. E. LLOYD ELECTED A FELLOW

AT A MEETING of the Academy's Council on September 17, Dr. Francis E. Lloyd of Carmel, Emeritus Professor of Botany in McGill University, was elected a Fellow of the California Academy of Sciences.